vocabulary of children in their oral expression.

(ii) To promote cognitive skills in children like sequential thinking, problem solving and concept formation.

(iii) To inculcate in young children an awareness of their immediate environment.

(iv) To develop an awareness of their cultural heritage among the children.

(v) To promote the use of play-way and activity method in teaching young children.

Measures to curb vulgarity in films

133. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Ministers of Information and Broadcasting of the States was held on 24th June, 1994 in New Delhi.

(b) if so, what were the main subjects discussed;

(c) if so, whether the Prime Minister has urged the film makers to curb vulgarity or face action;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures and steps in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P .SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussion was mainly centered on the issues of entertainment tax, need to check obscenity and violence in films, expansion|upgradation of AIR|DD networks, use of electronic and non-electronic media for projecting developmental activities in the States, the need for better coordination between Media Units of Central Government and State Governments, etc.

(c) The Prime Minister expressed concern about increasing obscenity, vulgarity and violence in films and solid that while self-regulation in the best antidote, in case it fails to work the Government would have to think of other measures.

(d) and (e) It has been the endeavour of the Government to curb vulgarity in films. The measures include increasing the representation of women in Central Board of Film Certification and its advisory panels, certification of songs alongwith the films etc. Film producers have also been asked to impose self-regulation and vulgarity and violence.

National broadcast policy

134. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a national broadcasting policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete steps Government propose to take to counter anti-India propaganda in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The mandate given to Akashvani and Doordarshan is to inform, educate and entertain the people of this country. The broad policy framework followed by them in this regard is as follows:—

(i) To give effective coverage to Government programmes; policies

and achievements with special emphasis on programmes and dissemination of information relating to developmental activities in all their facets;

(ii) To devise and present suitable programmes aimed at the youth, rural population, minority communities, women, children as well as other weaker and vulnerable sections of the society.

(iii) To disseminate information, news and comments in a fair, objective and balanced manner including contrasting points of view with emphasis on events and development.

(c) Besides strengthening the transmission facilities in Jammu and Kashmir, Akashvani and Doordarshan through their news bulletins and other programmes, constantly counter any wrong news, broadcast by foreign radio television network, aimed at our country by presenting in their proper prespective.

Crisis in indigenous newsprint industry

135. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after allowing duty free import of newsprint the indigenous newsprint industry is in doldrums;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the big newspaper establishments are violating the norms prescribed for importing newsprint and not purchasing the prescribed indigenous newsprint; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to save the indigenous newspaper industry from closure and ensure that newspapers do purchase the prescribed quantities of indigenous newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the Indian Newsprint Manufacturers' Association and newsprint mills stating inter alia that due to their lower scale of production, higher cost of inputs, obsolete technology, higher energy consumption and lower recovery etc. they cannot compete with imported newsprint which is brought in on duty free basis.

(c) and (d) Big newspapers with annual entitlement of more than 200 MTs of standard newsprint are allowed to import any quantity of newsprint on the condition that for every two MTs of indigenously produced newsprint purchaed by them from the scheduled mills, they can import one MT of standard newsprint. Entitlement certificates for procurement of newsprint are issued to only those newspapers who submit returns indicating the quantity of newsprint imported and purchased from the scheduled indigenous newsprint mills during the previous year duly certified by Chartered Accountants to the effect that 2:1 formula has been complied with. Therefore, there is ordinarily no scope for violating the condition prescribed for import of newsprint.

Transmission and distribution loss loss of power

136. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international average of transmission and distribution loss of power ranges between 10 to 12 percent whereas it is 20 to 39 percent in the country;

(b) the break-up of transmission and distribution losses, State-wise, during the last three years;